

**Holy Trinity Churchyard,
Milton Regis, Kent**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6348 PRIVATE

J. E. A. LOCKYER

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

6TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 34

He Nobly Obeyed

His Country's Call

From His Loving

Wife & Children

James Edward Alfred LOCKYER

James Edward Alfred Lockyer was born at Milton Regis, Kent, England in 1884 to parents Edwin & Esther Lockyer (nee Danes). James Edwin Alfred Lockyer was baptised in the Parish Church of Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Kent, England on 11th May, 1884. His parents were listed as Edwin & Hester Lockyer.

The 1891 England Census recorded James Lockyer as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at 8 Mill Street, Milton, Kent in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Edwin Lockyer (Brickfield Labourer, aged 41, born Wallsend, London) & Esther Lockyer (aged 37, born Upnor, Kent). James was one of four children listed on this Census (all born at Milton, Sittingbourne, Kent) – Harriett Lockyer (Scholar, aged 14), Alice Lockyer (Scholar, aged 10) then James & Florence Lockyer (aged 2).

James Edward Alfred Lockyer attended Milton Regis Council School, Kent, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded James Ed. Lockyer as a 17 year old Brickfield, living with his family at 25 Chalkwell Road, Milton next Sittingbourne, Kent. His parents were listed as Edwin Lockyer (Brickfield Labourer, aged 50, born Minster, Kent) & Esther (aged 45, born Hoo, Kent). James was one of six children listed on this Census (all born at Milton, Kent) – Alice Lockyer (employed at a Papermill, aged 20), then James, Florence Lockyer (aged 13), Horace George Lockyer (aged 8), Percy Lockyer (aged 5) & Hilda Lockyer (aged 2).

[The 1911 England Census listed James' parents – Edwin Lockyer (Brickfield Labourer, aged 61) & Esther Lockyer (aged 55) living with 3 of their children at 48 Chalkwell Road, Milton, in a 5 roomed dwelling. The children listed on this Census were – Horace Lockyer Brickfield Labourer, aged 18), Percy Lockyer (Brickfield Labourer, aged 15) & Hilda Lockyer (At School, aged 12). James' parents had been married for 35 years & had 11 children, 4 having since died.]

James Edward Alfred Lockyer was a 32 year old, single, Labourer from Maylands, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 18th October, 1916 with the 27th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6348 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Edwin Lockyer, of 48 Chalkwell Road, Milton Regis, Kent, England.

Private James Lockyer was posted to 88th Depot for training on 18th October, 1916. He was transferred to 24th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 16th November, 1916 then transferred to 18th Reinforcements on 27th Battalion on 2nd December, 1916.

Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 23rd December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th February, 1917. Pte James Lockyer had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on 19th January, 1917 & was discharged the next day.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private James Lockyer was marched in to 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917.

James Edward Alfred Lockyer, aged 33, married Ellen Maud Hughes, aged 25, on 5th June, 1917 at St. Paul's Church, Milton next Sittingbourne, Kent. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the registration district of Milton, Kent, England. Father of the groom was listed as Edwin Lockyer, Brickfield Labourer & father of the bride was listed as Charles Hughes, Brickfield Labourer.

Private James Lockyer proceeded overseas to France from 7th Training Battalion, via Southampton on 19th June, 1917.

Private James Lockyer was marched in to 2nd Divisional Base Depot at Havre, France on 20th June, 1917. Pte Lockyer proceeded to join 50th Battalion on 8th July, 1917 & was taken on strength with 50th Battalion on 9th July, 1917.

Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer was wounded in action on 18th October, 1917. He was taken to 14th Field Ambulance, on 22nd October, 1917, having been gassed, then transferred to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 24th October, 1917. Pte Lockyer was transferred on 25th October, 1917 & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th October, 1917. Pte Lockyer was invalided to England from Rouen on Hospital Ship *West Australia* on 3rd November, 1917.

Private James Lockyer was admitted to War Hospital at Reading, Berkshire, England on 5th November, 1917 with gas shell poisoning.

Private James Lockyer was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England on 17th December, 1917. A Medical Report was completed on Pte James Lockyer on 3rd January, 1918 at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. It was reported that his disability was Deafness & Gas Poisoning, which had occurred in France in July, 1917. It was recommended that Pte Lockyer was permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service for 2 months. Pte James Lockyer was discharged to duty on 17th February, 1918.

Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer was attached to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent for duty from 50th Battalion on 17th February, 1918.

Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer was transferred permanently to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent for duty on 4th May, 1918.



The Orchard Hospital, built in 1901/2, was turned over to the military during World War 1 & became the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford

Private James Lockyer was admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent with Influenza on 1st November, 1918.

Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer died at 1.10 pm on 6th November, 1918 at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for John E. A. Lockyer, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer was buried on 12th November, 1918 in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Milton Regis, Kent, England – North-west of the Church and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Lockyer - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was interred privately by relatives residing in Milton near Sittingbourne. Relatives that were present at the funeral – Father & Mother, 3 Sisters, Aunt & 2 Cousins, Father-in-law & mother-in-law, 2 Brothers-in-law.*

Pte James Edward Alfred Lockyer requested in his Will dated 26th July, 1917 that all his real estate & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Ellen Maud Lockyer of 10 Charlotte St, Milton Regis, Kent, England.

Pte James Edward Alfred Lockyer was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lockyer's widow – Mrs E. M. Lockyer, in England, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent November, 1922).

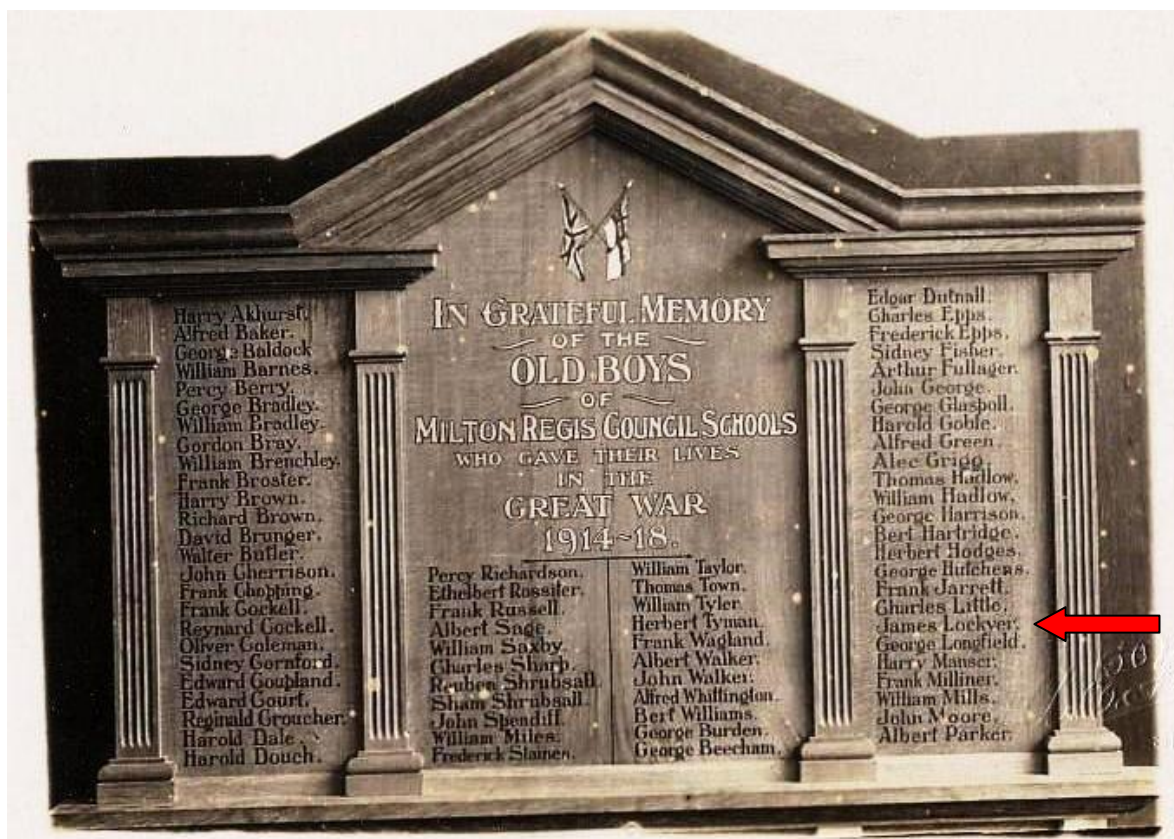
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Edward Alfred Lockyer – service number 6348, aged 34, of 3rd Aux. Hosp., Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Edwin and Esther Lockyer; husband of E. M. Lockyer, of 4 Gravel Pit Cottages, Milton Regis. Born at Milton Regis.

Private J. E. A. Lockyer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

James Lockyer is remembered on the Milton Court Primary School Roll of Honour located inside Milton School, Brewery Road, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent, England.



Milton Court Primary School Roll of Honour (Photo by KentFallen)

J. Lockyer is named on the Holy Trinity War Memorial, Milton Regis. The original memorial was destroyed by a falling tree in 1987. The original name panels were placed around the Cenotaph in Sittingbourne. The replacement War Memorial in Milton Regis was dedicated on the 14th October 2012.



Holy Trinity War Memorial, Milton Regis (Photos by Julie Brewer)



James Lockyer is named on the original panels of Holy Trinity War Memorial which are now located around the Cenotaph on Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent.



Sittingbourne Cenotaph with original name panels from Holy Trinity War Memorial, Milton Regis, located around the Cenotaph.

(Photo above by Julie Brewer & below by [Kyle Tallett](#))



James Lockyer is named on the St. Paul's Church Roll of Honour, Milton Regis. The wooden plaque, with a central copper cross, was originally located in St. Paul's Church but the Church was demolished in the 1960's. The plaque was held in storage for a number of years & was relocated permanently to Holy Trinity Church in 2011.



St. Paul's Church Roll of Honour, Milton Regis now located in Holy Trinity Church

(Photo by Julie Brewer)

(53 pages of Pte James Edward Alfred Lockyer's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

W. A. Casualties

At the Fighting Fronts

359th OFFICIAL LIST

WOUNDED

..... James Edward Alfred Lockyer, England;

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Died of Other Causes

J. E. A. Lockyer (England)

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 1 December, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government. *(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Pte J. E. A. Lockyer does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Nobly Obeyed His Country's Call

From His Loving Wife & Children

Holy Trinity Churchyard, Milton Regis, Kent, England

Holy Trinity Churchyard, Milton Regis, Kent contains 9 Commonwealth War Graves – 7 relate to World War 1 & 2 from World War 2.



Holy Trinity Churchyard, Milton Regis (Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

Photo of Pte J. E. A. Lockyer's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Milton Regis, Kent, England.



(Photo courtesy of Kyle Tallett)